

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 /059 W

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O P 291126Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9120

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 1814

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: TWENTY-NINTH DAY OF THE KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 1747

1. SUMMARY. THE THIRD MEKONG RIVER CONVOY SINCE THE KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE BEGAN JAN. 1 CROSSED THE BORDER INTO CAMBODIA JAN. 29 CARRYING AMMUNITION, FUEL AND RICE. ONE OF FOUR OIL TANKERS IN THE CONVOY CAPSIZED AFTER BEING HOLED BY ENEMY FIRE AND WAS THUS LOST. ANOTHER TANKER WAS BEACHED AFTER BEING HIT BUT HOPEFULLY WILL MAKE IT TO PHNOM PENH LATER. FANK FORCES ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY CLEARING THE KC OUT OF THE AREA FROM WHERE THEY ROCKET POCHENTONG AIRFIELD BECAUSE OF STIFF ENEMY DEFENSES AND UNFAVORABLE TERRAIN. FANK SCORED A GOOD SUCCESS NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CONVOY CROSSED INTO CAMBODIA BEFORE NOON JAN. 29, COMPOSED OF FOUR OIL TANKERS, TWO AMMUNITION BARGES AND FIVE OTHER VESSELS AND BARGES CARRYING RICE. NINETEEN KHMER NAVY CRAFT ARE PROVIDING ESCORT. AT LATEST REPORT ONE OIL TANKER HAS TURNED ON ITS SIDE AND BEEN
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ABANDONED. ANOTHER TANKER HAS BEEN BEACHED, BUT IT IS

HOPED THAT IT CAN BE TAKEN UNDER TOW TO PHNOM PENH.
THE REST OF THE CONVOY IS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY.
IT HAS RECEIVED ATTACKS BY FIRE AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS BUT
INITIAL REPORTS INDICATE THIS FIRE IS MUCH LESS HEAVY
THAN THAT RECEIVED BY THE TWO PREVIOUS CONVOYS.

3. A DOWNRIVER CONVOY FROM PHNOM PENH CROSSED THE
BORDER INTO SOUTH VIET-NAM EARLY JAN. 29. ONE CARGO
VESSEL CAUGHT FIRE ENROUTE AND WAS ABANDONED BY ITS
CREW. IT IS BEACHED ON THE SIDE OF THE RIVER AND CAN BE
TOWED ACROSS THE BORDER INTO SOUTH VIET-NAM, SECURITY
CONDITIONS PERMITTING.

4. ABOUT 19 MORE 107MM ROCKETS WERE FIRED AT PHNOM
PENH AND POCHENTONG JAN. 28-29 AS WELL AS THREE 105MM
HOWITZER ROUNDS AT POCHENTONG. SOME OF THE ROUNDS LANDED
INSIDE THE AIRFIELD PERIMETER BUT THERE IS NO REPORT
OF SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE. CASUALTIES FROM THE ATTACKS
WERE LIGHT. FANK IS ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR THE KC OUT
OF THE AREA WHERE THE ROCKETS ARE BEING FIRED. THUS
FAR THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PENETRATE DEEP ENOUGH
TO PREVENT THE ROCKETING BECAUSE OF STIFF ENEMY DEFENSES
AND UNFAVORABLE TERRAIN WHICH PROVIDES SANCTUARY FOR
THE KC.

5. FANK FORCES ON ROUTE 61 NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH
CONDUCTED AN OPERATION JAN. 28, REPORTEDLY KILLING
ABOUT 49 KC.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT ZONES, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM01814
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750032-0822
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750110/aaaaairp.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PHNOM PENH 1747
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWENTY-NINTH DAY OF THE KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE
TAGS: MOPS, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006